

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Seismic Permit 1516
(Conquest Seismic Services Inc)

Proposed Implementation Date: June, 2008

Proponent: Conquest Seismic Services, C/O Judy Hakala, Phone 612-990-7273

Type and Purpose of Action: The applicant has requested Seismic Permit on state oil and gas lease. No state surface ownership is present within the project area. The state only owns the subsurface. 3 D Seismic source points will be generated by vibe trucks. Receiver lines will be laid on the surface by foot or ATV.

Location:

Section 07 Lots 2, 3, 4: 112.72 acres

Section 17: E2: 320 acres

Section 18: Lots 1,2,3,4, NE4SW40: 189.44 acres

T27N-R6W

Trust tract is designated: Common Schools

County: Teton

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

Primary Petroleum – Mineral Lessee
Lone Wolf Energy – Mineral Lessee
Rockport Colony – Surface Land Owner
Field Brothers – Surface Land Owner
Montana Board of Oil and Gas, Shelby

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation permit
Teton County Seismic Permit

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Issue the seismic permit using the Conrad Unit Office's recommendations to minimize adverse environmental impacts.

Deny the seismic permit.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS N = Not Present or No Impact will occur. Y = Impacts may occur (explain below)
4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] Soils within this project area vary from silty to shallow gravelly. Topography is flat to gently rolling. Soils are suitable for seismic activities. The proposed action may cause localized areas of compaction from the manipulation of vehicles and equipment on the surface. However, no physical soil disturbing activities will occur during seismic operations. Existing access road will be used where present. Seismic operations will be completed only when topsoil conditions are dry or frozen to minimize soil erosion and compaction. No long-term negative impacts on the soil resources are expected.
5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The proposed action is not expected to impact water quality, quantity, or distribution in the area.
6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The proposed action will not impact air quality.
7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The project area contains a mixture of native rangeland and dry land agricultural land (crop land). Existing vegetation will be temporarily impacted from the manipulation of vehicles and seismic equipment on the ground surface. The applicant will be responsible for noxious weeds that may arise from implementing this proposed action. No rare plants or rare plant communities are present in the area. Overall, no long-term negative and/or cumulative impacts to the vegetation resources are expected.
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] Seismic activities may temporarily displace local wildlife species found in this area. These wildlife species may include mule deer, white tail deer, pronghorn antelope, predators, upland game birds, waterfowl, non-game animals and songbirds. The proposed action will not impact wildlife forage, cover, or traveling corridors. Nor will this action change the juxtaposition of wildlife forage, water, or hiding and thermal cover. Wildlife usage is expected to return to "normal" (pre-action usage) following the seismic operations. The proposed action will not have long-term negative effects on existing wildlife species and/or wildlife habitat.
9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The project area is within the N.C. Grizzly Bear recovery zone. This area may be occasionally used by Grizzly Bears. Grizzly bear habitat will not be changed as a result to this project. The project may temporarily displace bears in the immediate area, but not long term impact are expected. There

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
	are no other threatened or endangered species, sensitive habitat types, or other species of special concern associated with the proposed project area.
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] Historical and/or archaeological site will not be impacted by the proposed seismic activities.
11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The proposed action will occur in a remote area and will not cause changes to the aesthetic character of the land. Noise levels may increase during the time of the seismic project, but noise levels will return to "normal" (pre-action conditions) after the project is completed. No other changes to the aesthetics character of the land area expected.
12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The demand on environmental resources such as land, water, air, or energy will not be affected by the proposed action. The proposed action will not consume resources that are limited in the area. There are no other projects in the area that will affect the proposed project.
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of other private, state or federal current actions w/n the analysis area, or from future proposed state actions that are under MEPA review (scoping) or permitting review by any state agency w/n the analysis area?	[N] Currently, there are no other studies, plans, or projects associated with the proposed project area.

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[N] The proposed action will not change human safety in the area.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[Y] The intent of the proponent's action is to locate oil and gas reserves on state subsurface for future development and removal. If producing wells are developed in the future, the Common School Trust will receive royalty payments at current market rates for all oil produced. All surface owners have been contacted by Conquest and surface damages have been settled. This project will not add to or deter from other industrial, agricultural, or commercial activities in this area. The applicant will be responsible for any damages to improvements resulting from this project.
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] The proposed action will sustain several seismic jobs and generally add to the economy of surrounding communities.
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] The proposed action will add to tax revenue.
18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] This project will not add demand for government services.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[N] The proposed action is in compliance with State and County laws. No other management plans are in effect for the area.
20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] This project area does not contain state surface ownership. The project will not affect recreational opportunities on private lands.
21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The proposed action will not change the human population distribution or the housing requirements in the area.
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N] The proposed action will not alter the social structure of surrounding native communities.
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N] The proposed action will not impact the cultural uniqueness and/or the cultural diversity of the area.
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES: Is there a potential for other future uses for easement area other than for current management? Is future use hypothetical? What is the estimated return to the trust. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] The applicants hold interest in the State of Montana Oil and Gas Leases that are associated with this state land mineral estate. This lease entitles them to reasonable use , which includes seismic, and development of oil and gas resources on these tracts after DNRC review and approval.

EA Checklist Prepared By: /S/ ERIK ENBOE
Erik Eneboe

Conrad Unit Manager - CLO
Title

Date: June 29, 2006

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	I have selected the Proposed Alternative to issue a permit for seismic exploration.
26. SIGN4IFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	Significant impacts are not anticipated as a result of implementing the proposed seismic exploration activity. The seismic activity will occur on private surface ownership with state minerals and is part of a larger seismic project being conducted on adjacent private lands. The DNRC component is less than 15% of the overall project. The project area does not have any unique habitat features. It is within the recovery area for grizzly bears but is not an area frequented by bears. The area is only a 2-3 miles west of Highway 89. No impacts are anticipated to vegetation, air, soil or water resources. There may be minor and temporary disruption to wildlife from the noise of the operation but these impacts are not significant.
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis	

Signature	Date
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